

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1                   1. (original) A vascular prosthesis or tissue patch  
2 with a microporous finely fibular structure of a biocompatible  
3 polymer, especially a (previously presented) polyurethane, polyamide,  
4 polysulfone, polyester, isotactic polypropylene, polynitrile and/or  
5 polyvinylchloride, or mixtures thereof and/or their copolymers,  
6 characterized by an elasticity which has been produced by a  
7 definitive stretching (extension) with a degree of extension of 30  
8 to 250%, preferably 60 to 125%, and subsequent relaxation.

1                   2. (currently amended) A method of ~~improving the E-~~  
2 ~~modulus of making a~~ vascular prosthesis or tissue web [[s]] of  
3 biocompatible polymer, especially of polyurethane, polyamide,  
4 polysulfone, polyester, isotactic polypropylene, polynitrile and/or  
5 polyvinylchloride, (previously presented) mixtures thereof and/or  
6 their copolymers, with a microporous finely fibular structure,  
7 characterized by a definitive stretching (extension) with a degree  
8 of extension between 30% and 150%, preferably between 60  
9 and (previously presented) 125%, and subsequent relaxation.

1                   3. (original) The method according to claim 2  
2 characterized in that the pore size of the vascular prosthesis or  
3 of the tissue patch before the stretching is less than the extended  
4 dimension expected prior to stretching and beyond which the  
5 vascular prosthesis or tissue patch does not retract.

1                   4. (previously presented) The method according to claim  
2   2 characterized in that the stretching is an uniaxial or biaxial  
3   stretching.

1                   5. (previously presented) The method according to claim  
2   2, characterized in that the vascular prosthesis or the tissue  
3   patch prior(previously presented)to the stretching is soaked in a  
4   water soluble polyphysiological substance, preferably  
5   polyvinylalcohol (PVA), polyvinylpyrrolidone or gelatine (collagen)  
6   which is completely or partially drawn into the vascular prosthesis  
7   or the tissue patch, preferably on the outer side.

1                   6. (previously presented) The method according to claim  
2   2, characterized in that the vascular prosthesis is tubular and for  
3   stretching a requisite pressure is applied from the interior with a  
4   gaseous medium, preferably air or N<sub>2</sub>, or with a liquid  
5   medium.(previously presented)

1                   7. (original) The method according to claim 6  
2   characterized in that to avoid leakage, a yieldable preferably  
3   elastic auxiliary body is introduced into the vascular prosthesis  
4   to be stretched and is thereafter pressurized with a pressure  
5   applying medium.

1           8. (previously presented) The method according to claim  
2   5, characterized in that the stretching is carried out with an  
3   auxiliary body capable of mechanical size adjustment upon which the  
4   tissue patch is previously clamped or which is introduced into the  
5   tubular prosthesis.

1           9. (previously presented) The method according to claim  
2   5, characterized in that for widening a tubular vascular  
3   prosthesis, a drawing mandrel is used.

1           10. (previously presented) The method according to claim  
2   2, characterized in that to produce the vascular prosthesis or the  
3   tissue patch at least one aliphatic and/or at least one  
4   cycloaliphatic diisocyanate is reacted with a macrodiol of the  
5   polycarbonate type or of the polyester, (previously  
6   presented) polyether, polysiloxane or polysulfone type with an  
7   average molecular weight of 500 to 6000, whereby the ratio of NCO  
8   terminal groups of the prepolymer to OH groups of the chain  
9   lengthening agent is 1.01 :1 to 1.05:1 and the polymer obtained,  
10   optionally aftertreatment with a reagent for deactivating NCO  
11   groups which may still be present, is subjected to a molecular  
12   weight fractionation in which the low molecular weight polyurethane  
13   fraction making up 10% to 50% by weight of the polymer (previously  
14   presented) is separated off and discarded and the remaining high  
15   molecular weight fractionation is recovered as the biocompatible  
16   polyurethane with improved properties.